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Fitch Family History

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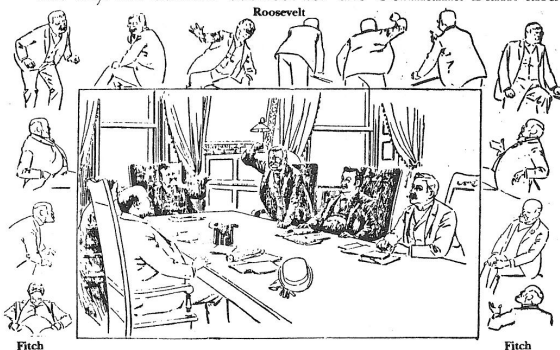
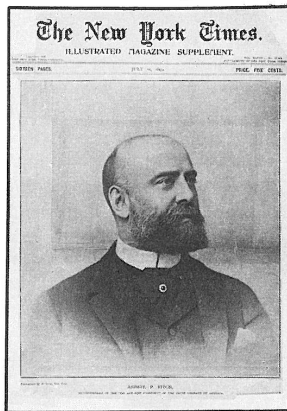
Ashbel Parmelee Fitch, son of Edward and Fanny (Parmelee) Fitch, m. **Elizabeth Adelia Cross** (8th gen. *William Bradford* (double) and 9th gen. *William Bradford*), daughter of George and Julia Ann (Lewis) Cross, 12 November, 1874 at Morrisville, New York, where she was born 28 December, 1850. The issue of Ashbel Parmelee and Elizabeth Adelia (Cross) Fitch was: *Bessie Cook, Ashbel Parmelee, Ella Julia, Morton Cross and Littleton Holmes*.¹⁹

The following biographical article on Ashbel P. Fitch's public and private careers originally appeared in the *New York Times* in 1899:

"In every sphere of duty to which he has been called, Ashbel P. Fitch has shown ability, integrity, and determination. Whether as a legal practitioner, Member of Congress, City Controller, or President of a trust company, his course of action is strongly marked by these qualities. He is moreover a sturdy American citizen, not only patriotic, but helpful in his devotion to his country. His sound judgement, keenness of observation, and allegiance to principles have thus far contributed to a very successful career in dealing with public affairs.

Of distinguished Revolutionary ancestry, Ashbel Parmelee Fitch was born in Moores, Clinton County, this State, on Oct. 8, 1848. He came to New York with his parents while quite young, and his rudimentary education was obtained in the common schools here. He was a pupil of Thomas Hunter, now President of Normal College. His father, who was a law partner of Gov. Myron H. Clark, sent him to Europe to finish his studies, and Ashbel spent some years in the Universities of Jena and Berlin. Upon his return to this country he took a course at the Columbia Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1869. He practiced his profession diligently up to 1884, when his public career practically began.

Professionally, as well as in other respects, Mr. Fitch has been a successful and progressive man. His thorough familiarity with the German language and literature has enabled him to render valuable services to German citizens and institutions in this city. He became counsel for the Germania Bank and the Brewers' Board of



An infamous clash occurred between Theodore Roosevelt and Ashbel Fitch at an 1896 meeting of the New York City Board of Estimate. "You dare not fight! Roosevelt challenged the Comptroller. "Oh, I don't, hey? Just name your weapons. What do you want - pistols?," answered Fitch, who later received "a small arsenal of gift weapons" from publish supporters²¹

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Trade, two responsible posts which he held for a number of years. So loyal was he to his business interests that on two or three occasions he declined to listen to suggestions from his neighbors and friends that he take an active role in political affairs. Once he did enter the public service he applied himself to his duties with a rare degree of conscientiousness.

Mr. Fitch's Congressional career was remarkable for the courage as well as the ability displayed by him. Elected to the House of Representatives from the Thirteenth Congressional district of this city in the fall of 1886, he soon found it necessary, in the vindication of his principles, to part company with his party organization. There was no taint of faithlessness in his conduct, for he was elected by Republicans after the frankest avowal of his opposition to the Republican policy of protection. In 1884 Mr. Fitch declined the Republican nomination for Congress on the ground that he was not in sympathy with the high protection doctrines of the Republican Party. In 1886, however, Gen. Egbert L. Viele was nominated for Congress by the Democrats in Mr. Fitch's district. Gen. Viele was a firm believer in high protection, and when the Republican district leaders asked Mr. Fitch if he would run against Viele, the answer was in the affirmative.

After a spirited campaign, in which both candidates discussed the tariff with more

SPEECHES ON THE TARIFF

HON. JOHN C. CARLISLE.
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 Globe Printing Office, 239 Penn. Avenue,
 2nd-3rd WASHINGTON, D. C.

Newspaper advertisement of Ashbel Fitch's speech on tariff. More than a million copies of his speech were printed in 1888.

or less freedom, Mr. Fitch was elected over Gen. Viele by a majority of 3,672 and in December, 1887 he took his seat as a member of the Fiftieth Congress. He was placed on some of the most important committees, and did effective work in the interests of New York City. Besides securing appropriations for the Harlem River Improvement, Mr. Fitch was particularly active in bringing about the repeal of the Federal election laws, which he regarded as interfering with the freedom of election in New York City. At this session of Congress President Cleveland submitted his notable message on

the necessity for a reform of the tariff.

Both heartily in sympathy with the principles and views enunciated by President Cleveland, Mr. Fitch was one of three Republicans who refused to be bound by the party caucus, and who voted for the Mills Tariff bill. He made a forcible speech on the floor of the House on May 16, 1888, in advocacy of the Mills bill. He made a special point of urging a reduction of the tariff in the interest of the working people of the City of New York. This speech attracted national attention. It was subsequently issued in pamphlet form, and some hundreds of thousands of copies were circulated by the Reform Club of New York and other organizations. In the two Presidential campaigns which followed successively Mr. Fitch's speech was reprinted in German and English by the Democratic National Committee, and more than a million copies were distributed.

Mr. Fitch's independent course with regard to the tariff naturally irritated the Republican leaders in New York as well as elsewhere, and in order that he might not occupy a false position, Mr. Fitch wrote a letter dated Aug. 13, 1888, resigning his position in the Republican District and County Committees and practically severing his connection with the Republican party. Three thousand of his constituents signed a "round robin" shortly afterward approving his Congressional acts and his position on the tariff. There was a popular demand for his return to Congress, and in October, 1888, he was renominated jointly by Tammany Hall and the County

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Democracy. James Otis Hoyt was pitted against him by the Republicans, and was defeated. Mr. Fitch's majority being 9,168 — more than double his majority on the occasion of his first election.

In the Fifty-first Congress Mr. Fitch was appointed a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and he retained his connection with that committee throughout his Congressional career. He also served as Chairman of the Committee on the National Election Laws and on the Committee on Private Land Claims. During his first term he obtained an appropriation of \$75,000 for the Harlem River improvements; in his second term he secured \$350,000 more, and during his third term he induced Congress to make a still further appropriation.

Always a sound money man, Mr. Fitch never lost an opportunity of combating the silver theories and arguments as they came up in the House of Representatives from time to time. He took part in several stirring debates on the silver question. He vigorously opposed the McKinley bill, and was a powerful influence in the fight for the international copyright law. In the Fall of 1890 Tammany Hall and the County Democracy again nominated Mr. Fitch for Congress and he was elected by a majority of 16,448, which was the largest majority given to any candidate for Congress in the United States at that election. His constituents commemorated the event by publicly presenting to their popular Representative a punch bowl, the specimen of American silverwork which received the first prize at the Paris Exposition. Mr. Fitch's fourth election to Congress was as a Tammany candidate from the Fifteenth Congressional District of New York. On that occasion (November, 1892) he received a majority of 10,977, the largest given to any Congressman in the city at that election.

Mr. Fitch was nominated for Controller of this city by Tammany Hall, and he was elected by a large majority. His independent course while in the Controller's office, however, did not please the dominant powers in Tammany Hall, and they were apparently glad of a pretext to drop him from their list of candidates when they made up their city ticket for the first election in the consolidated city. The pretext of which the Tammany leaders availed themselves was the fact that the Republicans placed Mr. Fitch on their ticket for City Controller without waiting to see what the Democrats were going to do. The Republicans took this action in deference to a very pronounced sentiment in Mr. Fitch's favor. Chauncey M. Depew, in placing the retiring Controller in nomination on the Republican ticket, said of him:

'Whatever may have been the difference of public expressions as to who was the best man to be the first mayor of Greater New York, there never has been any question in Republican, or Democratic or financial newspapers, that the best man



SWORDS AND COFFEE

Ashbel Fitch draws a sword to Theodore Roosevelt. "Fitch was no man (for Roosevelt) to challenge lightly, being the unscarred winner of some thirty sword fights at the University of Heidelberg"²²

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THE MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY

for the first Controller was Ashbel P. Fitch. Mr. Fitch has five times submitted himself as a candidate for the suffrages of the citizens of this community and has never been beaten. He has received during the discussion of candidates and tickets an unalbeited tribute never before paid to the financial officer of a municipal corporation. The managers of the banks, the trust companies, the savings banks, and the life insurance companies; the men who are entrusted with the deposits of the business community and with the investment and care of the savings of the thifty workers, both men and women — whether in their party affiliations they be Republicans or Democrats — have unanimously called on the political parties of this city to unite upon Controller Fitch.'

In spite of his personal popularity and the high esteem in which his administration of the Controllorship was held by New York businessmen, Controller Fitch was washed out of office by the Tammany tidal wave. Without a murmur of discontent, Mr. Fitch retired from the department which he had administered so ably and returned to the practice of his profession. The business ability which he had developed, however, was of such a quality that when a number of influential New Yorkers recently organized a new trust company, they prevailed upon the ex-Controller to accept the presidency of it.

Socially, Mr. Fitch is genial and popular. He has a well-stored mind, and is a most engaging conversationalist. Although always a very busy man his remarkable ability to dispose of work quickly as well as thoroughly enables him to preserve the demeanor of a man who takes things easily. His normal condition is cheerful, and he dispenses a great deal of cheerfulness as he goes through life."²⁰

See the *Fitch Vital Statistics* on page 128.

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D. Brenton Simons is the great-grandson of Ashbel P. Fitch, Jr., and is a member of the Massachusetts Mayflower Society. Mr. Simons is a contributor to NEXUS, a publication of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and is chaplain of the Huguenot Society of Massachusetts. He is currently preparing a biography of George and Sarah Lee (Munroe) Endicott, 19th century New York City lithographers from Canton, Massachusetts. His address is: 97 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

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NEBRASKA	0	0	4	1	4	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
NEVADA	0	0	11	3	11	3	11	3	0	0	0	0	0
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0	0	12	6	12	6	11	6	0	0	1	0	0
NEW JERSEY	0	0	58	5	58	5	56	5	0	0	2	0	2
NEW MEXICO	0	0	6	2	6	2	4	2	0	0	2	0	1
NEW YORK	1	1	52	9	53	10	51	10	1	0	1	0	2
NORTH CAROLINA	0	0	9	2	9	2	9	2	0	0	0	0	7
NORTH DAKOTA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OHIO	2	0	24	11	26	11	22	11	1	0	3	0	1
OKLAHOMA	0	0	8	0	8	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	0
OREGON	1	1	18	3	19	4	18	4	0	0	1	0	1
PENNSYLVANIA	1	0	30	13	31	13	29	13	0	0	2	0	5
RHODE ISLAND	0	0	13	2	13	2	12	2	0	0	1	0	2
SOUTH CAROLINA	1	0	27	6	28	6	27	6	1	0	0	0	0
SOUTH DAKOTA	0	0	12	0	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
TENNESSEE	0	0	9	2	9	2	8	2	0	0	1	0	0
TEXAS	9	1	117	44	126	45	116	42	3	3	7	0	1
UTAH	0	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
VERMONT	0	0	18	8	18	8	17	8	0	0	1	0	0
VIRGINIA	0	0	27	1	27	1	25	1	0	0	2	0	2
WASHINGTON	0	1	19	10	19	11	16	11	2	0	1	0	1
WEST VIRGINIA	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
WISCONSIN	1	0	16	4	17	4	16	4	0	0	1	0	0
WYOMING	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
1992 TOTALS	29	12	1183	315	1212	327	1144	309	15	9	53	9	51

Total lineages received and on hand, including supplementals 1539; total approved 1453.

HISTORICAL DATA:

Totals (1991)	54	16	1328	317	1382	333	1294	311	59	10	29	12	10
Totals (1990)	73	54	1487	235	1560	289	1441	258	65	15	54	16	131
Totals (1989)	60	2	1294	289	1354	291	1267	236	14	1	73	54	94
Totals (1988)	92	12	1253	216	1345	228	1223	221	62	5	60	2	68

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From the Fitch Article on pages 102-108.

Marriages

Edward Fitch and Fanny Parmelee were married at Malone, Franklin County, New York by Rev. S.R. Woodruff, April 22, 1846.

Clarissa Fitch and Peter J.H. Myers were married before Rev. C.M. Seaton, Esq., at Moores, New York, September 11, 1850.

Sarah C. Fitch and Stephen R. Scribner were married before Rev. Peter J.H. Myers, at Dennamora, New York, June 6, 1861.

Eleanor J. Fitch and James C. Dana were married before Rev. H.D. Ganse at No. 247 East 61st Street, in the City of New York, November 14, 1874.

Isaac Fitch (son of Capt. Nathaniel Fitch of Lebanon, Conn. and grandson of Rev. James Fitch, the settler) and Susannah Blackman were married June 23, 1751 before Jonathan Trumbull, Esq., at Lebanon, Conn.

Jabez and Molly Fitch were married April 21, 1779, before Joseph White, Esq., at Lebanon, Connecticut.

Jabez Fitch, Jr. & Anna Manning were married April 9, 1817, before Joseph Churchill, Esq., at Moores, NY.

Lucinda Fitch and Andrew J.C. Blackman were married before Rev. C.M. Seaton, Esq., at Moores, New York, September 21, 1841.

Henry Fitch and Clarissa M. Howard were married before Rev. Mr. Babcock

Births

Ashbel Parmelee Fitch, son of Edward and Fanny Fitch, was born at Moores, Clinton County, New York, October 8, 1848.

Eleanor Jane Fitch, daughter of Edward and Fanny Fitch, was born at Malone, Franklin County, New York, May 29, 1853.

Alice Maria Fitch, daughter of Edward and Fanny Fitch, was born at Malone, Franklin County, New York, March 29, 1856.

Jabez Fitch, son of Isaac Fitch & Susannah Blackman was born at Lebanon, Conn., November 18, 1752.

Molly Fitch, his wife, was born at Lebanon, Connecticut, June 6, 1754.

Jabez Fitch, Jr. son of Jabez and Molly Fitch, was born at Columbia County, New York, April 16, 1794.

Anna Manning, his wife, was born at Duanesburgh, New York, April 11, 1799.

Edward Fitch, son of Jabez and Anna Fitch, was born at Moores, Clinton Co., New York, January 12, 1823.

Fanny Parmelee, daughter of Ashbel and Fanny Parmelee, was born at Malone, Franklin County, New York, May 24, 1822.

The issue of Jabez Fitch, Jr. and Anna, his wife, were:

Lucinda Fitch, born at Moores, New York, Saturday, February 7, 1818.

Henry C. Fitch, born at Moores, New York, Saturday, October 14, 1820.

Edward Fitch, born at Moores, New York, Sunday, January 12, 1823.

Clarissa Fitch, born at Moores, New York, Monday, October 16, 1826.

Sarah Conklin Fitch, born at Moores, New York, Saturday, July 17, 1830.

Deaths

Molly Fitch, wife of Jabez Fitch, died at Moores, New York, February 9, 1830, in the 76th year of her age.

Jabez Fitch died at Moores, New York, August 20, 1837, in the 85th year of his age.

Lucinda Fitch, wife of Andrew J.C. Blackman, died at Moores, New York, December 24, 1842.

Anna Manning, wife of Jabez Fitch, Jr. died at Dennamora, New York, March 22, 1858.

Jabez Fitch, Jr. died at Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York, March 9, 1876.

Eleanor J. Fitch, wife of James C. Dana, died at 247 East 61st Street, New York City, February 28, 1876.

Edward Fitch died at Dobb's Ferry, Westchester County, New York, February 7, 1887.

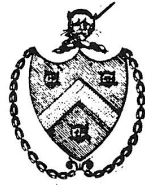


EVERYTHING is a sum of the past; nothing is comprehensible except through its history... What man is and what he is to be can only in relation to his history...

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)
Paleontologist and Theologian
The Phenomenon of Man

A FITCH FAMILY RECORD
1751 TO 1887: FIVE GENERATIONS OF NOTABLE
MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

by D. Brenton Simons



"Spes Juvat"
Fitch coat-of-arms

THE Fitch family record is significant not only for its myriad Mayflower connections (nine in total), but also as a source of documentation for otherwise unrecorded births, marriages and deaths in genealogically challenging upstate New York and elsewhere. From an historical standpoint, the Fitch family record does not spare itself of noteworthy 18th and 19th century Connecticut and New York citizens—some of whom were multiple Mayflower descendants. However, since the record has never been printed in its entirety and these generations are given scant mention in Roscoe Conkling Fitch's 1930 *A History of the Fitch Family*, descendants of the architect Isaac Fitch (1734-1791) of Lebanon, Connecticut are doubtless unaware of their many Mayflower antecedents. In fact, only six descendants (all in the Ashbel Parmelee Fitch family) have joined the General Society since the 1890s. In addition, this Fitch family record substantially corrects or amends several genealogies in print and other Mayflower sources. The first half of this two-part article will provide the record, additional data for family members not given in the record and biographical information where appropriate; a second installment will outline the nine lines of descent from *John Alden* (one), *William Bradford* (four), *John Howland* (one), *William Mullins* (one), *John Tilley* (one) and *Richard Warren* (one).

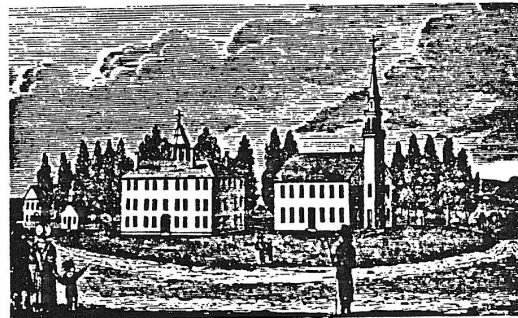
The original record was compiled by New York lawyer and politician Edward Fitch (1823-1887), and was later added to by his son, Ashbel Parmelee Fitch (1848-1904), a noted financier, U.S. Congressman and Comptroller of New York City. It "is a true copy of the entries made in the Fitch family Bible, and the said entries relating to the marriage of Isaac Fitch and Susannah Blackman, Jabez Fitch and Molly Bosworth, Jabez Fitch and Anna Manning, and Edward Fitch and Fanny Parmelee were made by Edward Fitch. The births and deaths relating thereto were also made by him, and the larger part of the information relating to the Fitch family was obtained and written by him."¹ A typed affidavit of the family record was notarized on 11 September 1907, and was subsequently submitted to the archives of the General Society in Plymouth by Mrs. Ashbel Parmelee Fitch (née Elizabeth Adelia Cross), a member of the New York Society. The original (and more detailed) document remains in the possession of Mrs. Fitch's descendants. Mrs. Fitch held honorary positions in the Society as did her son, Ashbel Parmelee Fitch, Jr. (1876-1926), who was Secretary of the New York Mayflower Society, 1902, and Assistant, 1903-1907.²

Isaac Fitch was born 10 May, 1734, in Lebanon, Connecticut, son of Capt. Nathaniel Fitch and his second wife Mindwell (Higley) Hutchinson Tisdale. Isaac Fitch's architectural career in colonial Connecticut is well-documented in William L. Warren's 1978 monograph *Isaac Fitch of Lebanon, Connecticut, Master Joiner, 1734-1791*, and other publications of the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society of Connecticut. A 1785 letter from Isaac's first cousin and business partner, Gov. Jonathan Trumbull (1710-1785) gives us some idea of Isaac Fitch's reputation as a builder, "Mr. Fitch is the best architect within the compass of my Acquaintance — his natural genius for the business is very extraordinary — works by rule, is industrious, and oversees and directs workmen beyond any man among us — and may be depended upon."³ Isaac Fitch married twice and both wives were Mayflower descendants. He m. (1) **Susannah Blackman**, (5th gen. *Richard Warren*) daughter of Elisha and Susannah (Higley) Blackman of Lebanon, Connecticut, who was a cousin via the Higley family to both Isaac Fitch and (Gov.) Jonathan Trumbull, Esq., who performed their marriage rites on 23 June, 1751. The issue of Isaac and Susannah (Blackman) Fitch was: *Jabez, Ichabod, Uriah, Nathaniel* and *Lucinda*.⁴

Isaac Fitch m. (2) **Violetta Alden** (5th gen. *John Alden*, 6th gen. *William Bradford* and 6th gen. *William Mullins*), daughter of Roger and Elizabeth (Ripley) Alden, merchants of Lebanon, born there 8 April, 1748.⁵ Isaac Fitch d. 17 Sept. 1791, Lebanon, and Violetta (Alden) Fitch d. 10 February, 1810, Lebanon. Ruth Gardiner Hall *Descendants of Governor William Bradford* (1951) (p. 330, "no known issue") and Ebenezer Alden, M.D. *Descendants of Hon. John Alden* (1867) are substantially amended by the existence of the following six daughters. The issue of Isaac and Violetta (Alden) Fitch was: *Brimtha, Lucretia, Octavia, Polly, Betsy (or Elizabeth)* and *Panthina*.⁶

Jabez Fitch, son of Isaac and Susannah (Blackman) Fitch m. **Molly Bosworth** (6th gen. *John Howland* and 7th gen. *John Tilley*), daughter of David and Mary (Strong) Bosworth of Lebanon, Connecticut. Jabez Fitch served extensively in the Connecticut state militia during the Revolutionary War, first as a Corporal in Captain Joseph Hobby's "Company of Householders in Greenwich," 1776-1777, later as a Captain in Colonel Wells' Regiment for service on the western coast of Connecticut, 1780, and as Captain of his own company, "Captain Fitch's Company of Independent Volunteers," 1782-1783.⁷ (Capt. Jabez Fitch of Lebanon and his second cousin of the same name, Capt. Jabez Fitch of Norwich, Connecticut, "*The Prison-Ship Martyr of the Revolution*," have occasionally been confused for one another. The prolific diaries of Capt. Jabez Fitch of Norwich, a descendant of Elder William Brewster, are

Colchester, Connecticut. Right, the third meeting house built by Isaac Fitch, 1771. From a woodcut by John Warner Barber, 1835.





The Green at Lebanon, Connecticut. Left, David Trumbull's "Tabernacle," built by Isaac Fitch, 1778-79. From a woodcut by John Warner Barber, 1835.

owned by the Massachusetts Mayflower Society and for many years have been extracted in the *Mayflower Descendant*). Capt. Jabez Fitch of Lebanon and other members of the Isaac Fitch family removed from Connecticut to Clinton County, New York via Champlain circa 1802 and settled in Moores. Jabez Fitch, like his father, was an architect by profession and "had built many public buildings before his settlement, some in Claverack, Columbia County, Spencertown, a church in Washington County, and the Presbyterian church at Plattsburgh." The following data supplements Mary Bosworth Clark's 1936 *Bosworth Genealogy*, Part V, (p. 611, "the compiler had the names and dates of birth of the children of this family ... but they were in a letter that was lost in a fire"). The issue of Jabez and Molly (Bosworth) Fitch was: *Susannah, Ichabod, Isaac, Lydia, David and Jabez*.⁹

Jabez Fitch, Jr., son of Capt. Jabez and Molly (Bosworth) Fitch, was a physician in Plattsburgh and Dannamora, New York, "was a surgeon in the State forces under the commission under Governor DeWitt Clinton,"¹⁰ and was deacon of the Moores Presbyterian church, 1838-1876.¹¹ He m. **Anna Manning**, formerly of Duanesburgh, New York. The issue of Jabez and Anna (Manning) Fitch was: *Lucinda, Henry C., Edward, Clarissa and Sarah Conklin*.¹²

Edward Fitch, son of Dr. Jabez and Anna (Manning) Fitch, m. **Fanny Parmelee**, daughter of the Rev. Ashbel Parmelee, D.D., a pioneer clergyman in upstate New York,¹³ and Fanny (Brush) Parmelee. Edward Fitch was "for over forty years prominent at the bar and in political circles" in New York and in 1855-1856 was one of the founders of the Republican party in that state.¹⁴ Edward Fitch was educated at Potsdam Academy and later studied law with Judges Moore and Beckwith of Plattsburgh. His first law practice was with his brother-in-law Ashbel B. Parmelee in Franklin County, New York. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1855,¹⁵ and later came to New York City with former New York Governor Myron H. Clark to open a law office. In New York City, he was frequently associated in cases with ex-U.S. Vice President William Almon Wheeler (1819-1887), of the Rutherford B. Hayes administration, "with whom he maintained a lifelong friendship." He participated in numerous local and national Republican campaigns and was "popular as a speaker on the stump through the state in the Fremont and the Lincoln campaigns,"¹⁶ "took an active part in the election of William H. Seward to the United States Senate"¹⁷ and from 1869 to the time of his death in 1887 was in partnership with his son Congressman Ashbel P. Fitch, with law offices at 93 Nassau Street, New York City. The issue of Edward and Fanny (Parmelee) Fitch was: *Ashbel Parmelee, Eleanor Jane and Alice Maria*.¹⁸